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The life of inland waters

This book² attempts to present in an elementary manner a comprehensive view of our fresh waters as the abode of a teeming multitude of organisms. The viewpoint is essentially ecological, with a background of economic possibilities. The first portion of the volume consists of an introduction to the subject, that is to the science of limnology, including a historical sketch of important epochs in its development and a glance at the present facilities for study, which include some 30 biological field stations in the United States and Canada. There follows a discussion of water with respect to its transparency, temperature, and circulation, as well as its gas, mineral, and organic content. The various types of aquatic habitats are then presented. These include ponds, lakes, streams, marshes, and bogs.

In the consideration of aquatic organisms, 57 pages are devoted to plant and 83 to animal forms. Concerning the latter the reviewer will venture no opinion, but the paragraphs on plant life seem interesting and accurate, but so general that they would need to be supplemented by good teaching in the field to accomplish their purpose. In such an ecological textbook the adjustment of organisms to the varied conditions of aquatic life under which they exist, and the interaction of the aquatic communities are, of course, the most important parts of the book, and considering the immensity of the field to be covered and the complexity of the material it would seem that the authors have been very successful. Still the book will have to be supplemented by a teacher with an unusually wide acquaintance with both plant and animal life in order to be the success which the subject deserves.

The final chapter upon the possibilities of water crops and water culture reveals economic possibilities of no small importance. The entire volume is in non-technical language, the material is well organized, and the contents may be appreciated by a person with a minimum of scientific attainment, while at the same time few teachers will find themselves sufficiently equipped to teach the entire field effectively. Good illustrations and a fairly extensive bibliography add to the value of the volume.—GEO. D. FULLER.

MINOR NOTICES

Fruit diseases.—A recent textbook by HESLER and WHETZEL³ discusses the subject from an essentially New England viewpoint, omitting from all consideration fruits and diseases that are of major interest in many states and nearly all that are of interest in our tropical possessions. The discussion of such diseases as are treated is in many instances from a local viewpoint rather

² NEEDAM, JAMES G., and LLOYD, J. T., *The life of inland waters*. 8vo. pp. 438. *figs.* 244. New York: Comstock Co. 1916. \$3.00.

³ HESLER, LEX R., and WHETZEL, HERBERT RICE, *Manual of fruit diseases*. 12mo. pp. xx+462. *figs.* 126. New York: Macmillan. 1917.